

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 29, 31-33, and 42-43 are pending in this application and claims 2, 4, 5, 10-14, 16-28, 30, and 34-41 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer or withdrawn. Claims 42 and 43 are newly added. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

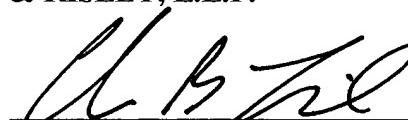
The Examiner indicated in the Interview Summary dated Feb. 9, 2004, that the amendments made herein are allowable over the prior art of record. It should be noted that Applicants have made minor changes to the claims after review and approval by the Examiner. The changes include changing "monolith" to "monolithic" and adding "the" prior to "lower cladding" and "waveguide core" in the last phase of claim 1 and 29. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 29, and 31-33 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner issue this case. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Favorable action in regard to the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted ,

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